Rec'd PCT/PTO 05 MAR 2002 09/926714

216714US-2-PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

YASUTAKA ITO ET AL

: ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION

SERIAL NO: 09/926,714

FILED: DECEMBER 6, 2001

FOR: CERAMIC HEATER

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to a first examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (Amended) The ceramic heater according to claim 1,

wherein said resistance heating element composed of a different circuit has a concentric circles-like or a spiral shape.

4. (Amended) The ceramic heater according to claim 1,

wherein said resistance heating element composed of a different circuit is a combination of: a resistance heating element having a concentric circles-like or a spiral shape; and resistance heating elements being divided in the circumferential direction.

7. (Amended) The ceramic heater according to claim 1,